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Note by the Secretary-General

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1. Federation of Islamic Medical Associations

Special, 2005

I. Introduction

The aims of the Federation include collaboration among member organizations in various countries on medical relief for needy communities, and during disasters; medical education, training and research; exchange of experiences and information in the area of health among member organizations; and promoting the application of sound ethical standards in health care and medical research

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

The Federation did not participate as fully as might be expected in the work of the Council because of lack of proper and timely communications. Information about international meetings and conferences was not received at its headquarters during the reporting period.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

The Federation cooperated with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) in organizing and executing an international Muslim leaders' consultation on HIV/AIDS in Addis Ababa in July 2007. It also collaborated with the World Health Organization (WHO) on planning and executing a campaign against blindness, from 2005 to the present. This collaboration took the following forms: (a) technical and logistic cooperation on the establishment of an eye hospital in Al-Genaina, Darfur, Sudan, which opened in January 2006; (b) cooperation on combating visual impairment in needy countries in Africa and Asia; (c) participation in a WHO-sponsored meeting on the prevention of blindness; (d) participation in a convention on bioethics organized by the World Medical Association, WHO, the Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences and the Islamic Organization for Medical Sciences in Cairo; (e) participation in an international seminar on stem cell research and ethical challenges, Cairo, 2007.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The Federation established a programme called "Save Vision", which aims to combat blindness, especially blindness caused by cataracts, in countries with poor medical facilities and poor economic and social development. Blindness is a major public-health problem in Africa, the eastern Mediterranean region and other parts of the developing world. If urgent action is not taken, the number of blind persons will

double over the next 20 years. The main target is to treat cataracts, which is the main cause of treatable blindness, in remote areas of Africa and Asia; train and build the capacity of local eye doctors, nurses and other paramedics; and establish permanent, well-equipped and sustainable eye hospitals or clinics in existing local hospitals.

To accomplish its aims, the Federation deploys eye specialists to the aforementioned areas and provides all the necessary equipment, medications and so forth. It cooperates with concerned non-governmental organizations and local health authorities to raise funds to establish and equip eye hospitals and assists in raising awareness of the problem of visual impairment. Over the past four years, its programme was implemented in eight countries in Africa and five countries in Asia.

With respect to the combating of HIV/AIDS, the Federation and its member associations have undertaken many activities related to HIV/AIDS prevention and patient care in Africa and Asia in the last three decades.

In Africa, the Islamic Medical Association of Uganda, a Federation member, has played a lead role since 1989. The Third International Muslim Leaders' Consultation on HIV/AIDS was held in Addis Ababa in July 2007, with participants from 28 countries. The conference was aimed at promoting the understanding and use of the Islamic approach to HIV/AIDS. The Islamic Medical Association of South Africa, another Federation member, adopted an HIV/AIDS prevention programme in 1998, in collaboration with two other Muslim organizations, which focuses on the management of patients.

In South-East Asia, the Islamic Medical Association of Malaysia has been active in raising public awareness of measures to combat HIV/AIDS since 1998, but its main achievement is the establishment of a home for women and children living with HIV/AIDS, where abandoned and orphaned children receive medical, social and educational care from dedicated experts. During the reporting period, the Federation conducted other activities in Pakistan, Indonesia and other Asian countries; it plans to expand its programme to include more countries and communities in the future.

In 2005, the Federation launched a programme in the Middle East and North Africa on protecting youth against sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS.

The Federation provided humanitarian medical relief in disaster-stricken areas in Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Darfur, Sudan, by sending medical teams and supplies and caring for orphans. It also provided medical aid in Lebanon during the hostilities in 2006.

With respect to the training of medical students, the Federation organized student camps in African and Asian countries on health needs and priorities, professional planning and the excellence of Muslim health-care professionals.

2. Global Cooperation Society International

Special, 1997

I. Introduction

Global Cooperative Society International is an international non-governmental organization with networks in over 30 countries. The organization aims to promote a healthy society, improve standards of living, protect nature and the environment, restore human dignity and promote world peace, in a spirit of goodwill, cooperation and service. Its ultimate goal is to build a spiritual, affluent and caring society that transcends the differences of race, religion, ideology and nationality. The Society upholds the United Nations spirit and ideals and actively participates in United Nations-related programmes. Throughout the period 2005-2008, it participated in certain United Nations conferences and events, including commemorative activities for the International Day of Peace, and in social and economic development programmes in connection with the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Global Cooperative Society International actively sponsors medical service programmes for developing countries, which include sending volunteers to provide free medical aid. The Society's Korean chapter raised relief funds for tsunami victims in Sri Lanka in 2005 and, in 2008, the Society launched a joint project with the World Taekwondo Federation to promote the taekwondo spirit of sharing peace and service. Since 2008, seven "taekwondo peace corps" have been dispatched to more than 10 countries including India, China, the Russian Federation, Paraguay, Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Egypt and Bolivia (Plurinational State of).

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

In 2008, the president of Global Cooperative Society International paid a courtesy call to the Secretary-General to discuss cooperation between Korean non-governmental organizations and the United Nations. He also had a meeting with the chair of the NGO/DPI Executive Committee and other United Nations officers to discuss collaboration between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations. Many of the Society's national chapters worldwide were actively involved in projects for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. Its medical corps conducted service activities in Thailand in 2007 and in Cambodia in 2008. In November 2007, it held a fund-raising march for the elimination of child poverty in Thailand to contribute to the achievement of the Goals. In 2005 and 2006, the Malaysia chapter conducted blood donation sessions. The Society's activities in Nepal focused mainly on promoting education, health services, sanitation and environmental awareness among people living below the poverty line. Main activities included providing scholarship opportunities to students from villages in remote parts of the country, holding annual health camps in remote areas, promoting awareness of environmental problems in the Himalayas, visiting orphanages and providing food and educational materials for children. The Osaka chapter has engaged in social and economic development programmes in Cambodia, such as the establishment of an orphanage and an elementary school and the development of water resources in rural areas, since 2006. The Kenya chapter built a primary school for children in one of the country's villages.

3. The International Association of Women in Radio and Television

Special, 1985

I. Introduction

The aim of the International Association of Women in Radio and Television is to connect women working in the electronic media in countries in the North and South, with a view to increasing their participation and decision-making. In line with the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, its strategy is to empower women engaged in the media through targeted training, professional education, capacity-building, regional activities and networking to promote the human rights of women, equality between women and men and a non-stereotyped, balanced portrayal of women in the media. As one of the few media organizations with special consultative status with the Council, the Association represents a valuable resource for the United Nations itself. It has a large and growing membership, especially in the countries of the South. By December 2008, it had 342 members in 56 countries covering all continents, with local chapters in Africa, South-East Asia, Europe and India.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

In 2005-2007, the Association's board members and other representatives attended the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women and the conferences of the NGO/DPI Executive Committee. The treasurer of the Association took part in the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2007, and the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Poznán, Poland, in December 2008. In November 2008, the Norway chapter attended the "Women in the Land of Conflict" conference in Oslo. The conference highlighted Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security. In November 2008, delegates from the Norway and India chapters attended the United Nations Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances in Geneva.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

The Association actively cooperates with numerous United Nations organizations, including the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). In 2005, it attended meetings of UNESCO and the World Summit on the Information Society in Tunis. With assistance from UNESCO, it set up a women's media resource centre at the Indira Gandhi National Open University in New Delhi. At the 2006 NGO/DPI meeting in

New York, representatives from the Cameroon and Kenya chapters presented a pioneering project to inform rural village women in Cameroon about health issues and female genital mutilation. In 2007, the Nepal chapter helped to produce and distribute a media kit on resolution 1325 (2000).

Following the launch of the "UNiTE to End Violence against Women" campaign by the Secretary-General, the Association hosted a regional meeting on the role of media in ending violence against women in Bangkok in 2008. That same year, it held a regional conference in Cape Town, South Africa, on violence against women. In 2007 and 2008, the Kenya chapter worked with UNESCO on World Press Freedom Day and in 2005, 2006 and 2007, the India chapter organized the annual Asian women film-makers' festival in New Delhi, to mark International Women's Day.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Goal 3: **Promote gender equality and empower women.** The Association's biennial awards for excellence in radio and television documentaries are awarded to women working in the media, who make documentaries on such issues as women's rights, women in war and conflict, peacebuilding and promoting gender equality. In 2007, the Philippines chapter implemented public awareness programmes on gender bias in the media and domestic violence and, in 2008, the Cameroon chapter attended a forum on women's rights and development in Cape Town, South Africa.

Goal 5: **Improve maternal health.** In 2006 and 2007, the Cameroon chapter organized community radio programmes educating local and remote communities about the genital mutilation of young girls and its effect on women's health.

Goal 6: **Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.** In December 2007, the India chapter produced an HIV/AIDS radio series during a three-day workshop in Bangalore, attended by 60 participants.

The Association adheres to the global principles contained in international instruments for strengthening women's rights, including the Beijing Platform for Action, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Millennium Development Goals and resolution 1325 (2000). All its activities and projects are related in some way to these principles. In 2006, the Nepal chapter organized a conference on the role of media women in the reconstruction process in Nepal, to coincide with the United Nations Population Fund's campaign "16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence". In 2007, the Association organized an international post-conflict reconciliation conference, with the participation of a senior United Nations adviser on gender, the Chief of UNIFEM in Nepal and a senior gender affairs adviser with the United Nations Mission in Nepal. Also in 2007, the Norwegian and Indian chapters launched a project to produce resource materials highlighting the plight of women whose husbands and sons were victims of enforced disappearances. These women now organize and campaign for their rights. The Norway and Nepal chapters teamed up with an Indian and Nepalese organization in 2007 to run a safe migration programme that helps to prevent trafficking of women and children by developing resource materials and media advocacy tools for women in remote areas of India, Bangladesh and Nepal.

4. The International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences

Special, 2005

I. Introduction

The International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences is a long-standing world organization of social and biological scientists, academic institutions and project specialists working in the fields of human development, anthropology, ethnology and the social sciences. Its aim is to enhance exchange and communication among scholars and practitioners in all regions of the world, in a collective effort to expand human knowledge and improve the human condition. It has collaborated closely over the years with UNESCO to preserve historic monuments and the cultures of indigenous peoples. Its commissions have expanded over the years to deal with many of the themes covered by the United Nations (children and youth, women, HIV/AIDS, religion, migration, linguistics, visual anthropology, sustainable development, etc.).

II. Contribution of the Organization to the Work of the United Nations

Since 2005, the Union has attended most of the sessions of the Economic and Social Council, as well as Council-sponsored round tables and other meetings. It plans to organize parallel and side events in the future. It has followed the meetings of the General Assembly Committees, especially the Second and Third Committees. The Union has been a member of the executive board of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations Committee on Children's Rights since 2007 and, during the 2005-2008 period, it collaborated frequently with officers of UNICEF, the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Division for the Advancement of Women, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, UNAIDS, the Office of the President of the General Assembly, and the Office of the Special Adviser for Africa, to plan joint programmes at Headquarters and beyond.

In 2005, it organized side events on women and HIV/AIDS, the challenges of HIV/AIDS in conflict and post-conflict societies and the rights of the child. In 2006, it organized side events on indigenous children and their families and on child trafficking and sexual exploitation in western and South-East Asia. During the reporting period, it also organized annual college student internships at the United Nations. The interns contributed by providing background information on such issues as HIV/AIDS in different parts of the world, disability and the trafficking of children.

5. Jammu and Kashmir Council for Human Rights

Special, 2001

I. Introduction

During the reporting period, the Jammu and Kashmir Council for Human Rights continued its work in furtherance of United Nations activities, in accordance with the aims of the Council. Following the severe earthquake in October 2005 in the territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the organization rushed truckloads of humanitarian and medical aid to the victims. It also set up a conference call telephone facility via London for victims of the divided families living on both sides of the line of control so that surviving members of divided families could communicate with each other.

In furtherance of the Basic Principles for the Treatment of Prisoners, the Council continued to advocate for the humanization of criminal justice and the protection of the human rights of prisoners in the three administrations of Jammu and Kashmir, India, Pakistan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and many other countries, either on its own or in cooperation with other non-governmental organizations and civil society institutions.

The Council discussed the deportation of foreign imams and the question of justice in war with the Government of Great Britain in August 2005 and continued to advocate for the individual rights of imams and their families.

Based on the principle of respect for the right to life, the Council continued to oppose capital punishment as a violation of the right to life and the right not to be subjected to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. It also continued to support resolution 1997/12 of the Commission on Human Rights, in which the Commission calls on all States that have not yet abolished the death penalty "to consider suspending executions, with a view to completely abolishing the death penalty".

In furtherance of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the Council arranged a one-day conference on Muslims and the question of terrorism' in London in 2005. It urged the government to make London and other parts of the country safer, in partnership with the Muslim community, and to avoid making any community a scapegoat.

Pursuant to Commission on Human Rights resolution 1998/35, which states that an independent and impartial judiciary and an independent legal profession are essential prerequisites for the protection of human rights and for ensuring that there is no discrimination in the administration of justice, the Council supported the civil society movement for the independence of the judiciary in Pakistan and the Pakistani-administered part of Kashmir. It also facilitated, in November 2007, meetings between legal representatives and the office of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers at the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Geneva. It participated in various sessions of the Human Rights Council in Geneva and made written and oral contributions.

The Council continued to oppose the use of violence in Jammu and Kashmir and to support the right to participate in elections. It also worked to promote reconciliation and political interaction among the three administrations of Jammu and Kashmir. It

cooperated with various national and international human rights institutions including, inter alia, the National Human Rights Commission of India, the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, the United States Institute of Peace and Amnesty International.

The Council campaigned actively against torture and inhumane and degrading treatment and provided medical, humanitarian and psychological support to victims of torture and their families. It also assisted persons from Jammu and Kashmir in applying for political asylum by advocating for the speedy processing of their applications.

In accordance with the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials, the Council protested against the use of arbitrary force against the people who marched from Srinagar (India-administered Kashmir) to Muzaffarabad (Pakistan-administered Kashmir) on 11 August 2008, and the subsequent loss of life. It continued to campaign in favour of the Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials which states that law enforcement agencies should be representative of and responsive and accountable to the community as a whole. It highlighted that it is the duty of a Government to adequately train its police and other agencies to assess when and where to fire a gun and that the power to carry arms brings with it an enormous responsibility to use them legitimately.

The Council reminded the Government of India and the State Government of their obligations under paragraph 12 of Security Council resolution 47 (1948), which states that "there will be freedom of the press, speech and assembly and freedom of travel in the State, including freedom of lawful entry and exit" for the people of the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

6. Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development

Special, 2005

I. Introduction

The aims and purposes of the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development have remained the same, as has its main course of action. The Office is a non-profit federation of Mediterranean non-governmental organizations for the environment and development that acts as a technical and political platform for the presentation of views and intervention of non-governmental organizations in the Mediterranean. In cooperation with governments, international organizations and other socio-economic partners, it plays an active role in the protection of the Mediterranean environment and cultural heritage and in the promotion of the sustainable development of the Mediterranean region.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

On the occasion of the sixteenth meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Office co-hosted a side event on addressing climate change adaptation challenges in the Mediterranean, with approximately 60 participants from Mediterranean countries, major international organizations, the European Commission and civil society.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

The Office maintained close contact with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the coordinating unit for the Programme's Mediterranean Action Plan for the Barcelona Convention. During the reporting period, it attended and contributed to a large number of meetings, including: (a) the fifth meeting on reporting under the Barcelona Convention, Rabat, June 2005; (b) a meeting to review the long-term implementation of national action plans to address pollution from land-based activities, Tirana, June 2006; (c) the third meeting of the working group of experts designated by the contracting parties to the draft protocol on integrated coastal zone management in the Mediterranean, Loutraki, Greece, February 2007; (d) the third regional workshop on water and sustainable development in the Mediterranean, Zaragoza, Spain, March 2007; (e) the sixteenth ordinary meeting of the contracting parties to the Barcelona Convention, Almeria, Spain, January 2008.

In addition to these activities, the Office remained actively involved in the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development which, in the period 2005-2008, finalized and began implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development. With the support of the Global Environment Facility and the European Commission, the Office helped to organize a Mediterranean multi-stakeholder forum on the protection of the Mediterranean Sea from land-based pollution in October 2005, the aim of which was to introduce national action plans to Mediterranean civil society actors and facilitate their participation in the implementation process.

With the support and partial funding of UNEP, the Office and two other non-governmental organizations have been conducting a "Keep the Mediterranean Litter Free" campaign since 2006. The related poster was published in all Mediterranean languages, as was a set of guidelines for all the stakeholders that are directly or indirectly part of the problem (the maritime, tourist and other industries, local and national authorities, non-governmental organizations, etc.). The campaign was also presented at the sixteenth meeting of the contracting parties to the Barcelona Convention. An assessment of the status of marine litter in the Mediterranean, which had been requested by UNEP, was conducted as parted of the preparation of a regional strategy on marine litter. The latter will be made public as a UNEP publication.

The Office and the Arab Network for Environment and Development organized a consultation on sustainable development in Cairo in December 2007, in preparation for a meeting of the Arab Ministers for the Environment. The meeting explored sustainable development trends in the Arab Mediterranean region, country achievements in implementing the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the role of civil society. The participants also discussed climate change and its expected impact on the Arab Mediterranean region, and the role of non-governmental organizations in addressing climate change issues.

C. Initiatives undertaken in support of the internationally agreed development goals

With respect to the Millennium Development Goals and targets, the Office participated in numerous regional and national meetings aimed at alerting the Governments and other stakeholders of the region that the targets adopted in Johannesburg urgently require concerted action.

To help to achieve universal primary education (Goal 2), the Office participated in expert groups on the drafting, implementation and monitoring of the Economic Commission for Europe strategy on education for sustainable development.

The Office undertook a number of actions to ensure environmental sustainability (Goal 7), including the coordination of the Mediterranean educational initiative for environment and sustainability, which facilitates a network of over 2,600 educators and non-governmental organizations working on environmental protection and sustainable development; the publication and distribution of more than 12,000 copies of educational materials in view of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014) and the organization of more than 24 national and international seminars for educators in the Mediterranean, using those materials; the promotion of education for sustainable consumption in the

Mediterranean; and active participation in the Mediterranean component of the European Union Water Initiative, a key contribution to the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

D. Activities in line with the implementation of Agenda 21

The Office made a persistent effort to urge Mediterranean countries to adhere to principle 10 of Agenda 21 and to consider acceding to the Aarhus Convention establishing domestic regimes that provide for public access to environmental information, participation in decision-making and access to justice.